

Before the State of South Carolina
Department of Insurance

In the matter of:)

Valley Forge Insurance Company,)

412 Washington Street)

Reading, Pennsylvania 19603.)

Consent Order

Imposing Administrative Penalty

File Number 1999181-078-010

This matter comes before me pursuant to an agreement entered into between the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance and Valley Forge Insurance Company, an insurer licensed to transact insurance business within the State of South Carolina.

Valley Forge hereby admits, and I find as fact, that it failed to pay within 15 days a final judgment rendered against it by the South Carolina Workers Compensation Commission in the proceeding entitled Roger Holbrooks vs. Steelworks of the Carolinas, Inc., SCWCC file number 9722911, in the amount of \$120. Valley Forge also admits, and I find as fact, that it also failed to pay that judgment within fifteen days of being notified by the Department of its need to do so. This is a direct violation by Valley Forge of § 38-55-120 of the South Carolina Code, which can ultimately lead to the revocation of an insurer's certificate of authority, pursuant to that Code section as well as Code Sections 38-2-10 and 38-5-130, to transact the business of insurance within the State of South Carolina, following a public hearing before the Administrative Law Judge Division.

Prior to the initiation of formal administrative disciplinary proceedings by the Department against it, Valley Forge and the Department agreed to submit the entire matter to me, along with their specific recommendation, for my summary decision. That consensual recommendation was that, in lieu of the Department's filing of a petition to revoke Valley Forge's certificate of authority to transact business as an insurer within the State of South Carolina, the insurer would waive its right to a public hearing and immediately submit to the Department an administrative fine in the total amount of \$1,000.

After a thorough review of the matter, and after carefully considering the recommendation of the parties, and pursuant to my findings of fact and conclusions of law, although I can now revoke Valley Forge's certificate of authority, I hereby impose an administrative fine in the amount of \$1,000 against the insurer pursuant to the authority provided to me by the State of South Carolina General Assembly in S.C. Code Ann. §§ 38-5-130 and 38-2-10 (Supp. 1999). The administrative fine must be paid within ten days of my date and my signature upon this Consent Order Imposing Administrative Penalty. If this amount is not paid

____ Valley Forge Insurance Co.

on, or before, that date, then Valley Forge's certificate of authority to transact business as an insurer within the State of South Carolina will be summarily revoked without any further administrative disciplinary proceedings. This administrative penalty has been reached by the parties as a result of Valley Forge's full payment of the Workers Compensation Commission judgment and of the insurer's assurance that in the future it will timely pay final judgments rendered against it in South Carolina.

By the signature of one of its officers or authorized representatives upon this consent order, Valley Forge acknowledges that it understands that this order is a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's *Freedom of Information Act*, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10, *et seq.* (1991 and Supp. 1999).

Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, or to deprive any person of, any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement or judicial officer. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit the statutory duty, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-110 (Supp. 1999), of the Director of Insurance, exercised either directly or through the Department, to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the laws relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report."

It is, therefore, ordered that Valley Forge Insurance Company shall, within ten days of my date and my signature upon this consent order, pay through the Department an administrative fine in the total amount of \$1,000.

It is further ordered that a copy of this consent order shall be immediately transmitted to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for distribution to its member states.

This consent order becomes effective on the date of my signature below.


Ernst N. Csiszar
Director

March 29, 2000, at
Columbia, South Carolina

____ Valley Forge Insurance Co.

I CONSENT:

Sally Narey
Signature of Authorized Representative

Sally Narey
Name

Group Vice President
Title

Valley Forge Insurance Company
412 Washington Street
Reading, Pennsylvania 19603

Dated this 22 day of March, 2000